Flagging for Info: Commercial Truck Driver protests

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Good Morning,

Please find below the CBSA's overview of the various Commercial truck Driver protests and events.

Overview of the Commercial Truck Driver protest:

- Ottawa may begin to see convoys associated with the Freedom Convoy 2022/#BearHug2.0 arriving as of January 28, 2022. Different convoys (including the South route) will also be congregating in Kingston, ON, as of January 27, 2022, and will begin to depart for Ottawa as of January 28, 2022. The East and West routes of the Convoy for Freedom 2022 will be arriving in Ottawa on January 29, 2022.
- Funding for the Freedom Convoy 2022 was at $5.2 million at the time of this writing. GoFundMe is currently withholding the funds until the protest can demonstrate that they will have adequate financial management and oversight.
- The BOC and Communications continue to monitor social media and reports of truckers and other drivers driving slower than normal ("slow rolls") in order to hold up traffic and cause delays, in support of truck convoys and protests. Relevant VPs and RDGs are being briefed as information comes in. The GOC is also following this situation.

Breakdown by protest:

Freedom Convoy 2022 / #BearHug2.0

- South Route (SOR/GTAR): The South route consists of several different convoys (from Windsor, Fort Erie, Sarnia, Niagara, Toronto) that are set to converge on Kingston, ON starting today. We currently know that Fort Erie and Sarnia convoys plan to depart today for Ottawa. The Windsor convoy is set to depart on January 28, 2022, for Ottawa.
- A report was received from SOR at 1158 ET today about a convoy of around 75 vehicles including transport trucks and personal vehicles arriving on the roadways leading to the Ambassador Bridge and continuing on the city streets in a loop around the port of entry. The organized slow roll is in protest of the new requirement for truck drivers to be fully vaccinated. At this time they are not interfering with the normal processing of border traffic.

- West Route (PAC): The "Convoy for Freedom 2022" departed B.C. on January 23, 2022, and will make its way to Ottawa. According to the itinerary, it will be travelling through Kenora, ON today and is expected to be in Thunder Bay, ON by tomorrow.

- East Route (ATL/QC/NOR): The region is currently monitoring potential convoy protests with three routes specific to the Atlantic Region: St. Johns to Port aux Basques (Newfoundland), Stratford (P.E.I) to Moncton (NB); and Enfield (NS) to Rivière-du-Loup (NB).

- The Freedom Convoy 2022 website has not updated this route, however, their website indicates that this route is still scheduled to be arriving in Ottawa as of January 29. If this route has followed its stated itinerary, it should be meeting up with a Nova Scotia convoy in Moncton, NB and then moving towards Enfield, NS and Riviere-du-Loup, NB.

Other

- "Hold the Line" Protest (SOR): Intel has reported on an electronic poster titled "Hold the Line" being posted regarding activity on January 29, 2022, for those who can't attend protests in Ottawa. Truckers and supporters are being encouraged to block the border wherever they are located and to hold position while the convoy is stationed in Ottawa.

- Coutts POE (PRA): An Instagram movement called "Lockdown Coutts Border" is starting a protest on January 29, 2022 and will remain in the area of the Coutts POE (and potentially Carway POE) until all mandates and restrictions are lifted. Information gathered suggests that trucks and vehicles will block access in both directions. The organizer contacted the CBSA to confirm that they will let emergency vehicles and CBSA employees through to the POE. An action plan has been put in place. RCMP and other officials have been contacted.

- Emerson POE (PRA): "Manitoba Operation Freedom Border Protest" is set to occur this Saturday, January 29, starting at 05h00 at the Emerson POE. The protest will start as a slow roll event but the intention is to become a complete standstill in order to block access to the border.

- Various (QC): On January 28, 2022, truckers will be meeting at 3 POEs (Saint-Theophile, Stanstead, and Saint-Bernard-de-Lacolle), and will drive on Highway 40 until Vankleek Hill (ON), and will move onward to Ottawa on January 29, 2022. Unclear if this is related to the "Convoy for Freedom 2022" but appears to be.

- "Freedom Fighter Nation Protest", USA: Information has been received from USCBP regarding an advocacy group called "Freedom Fighter Nation" which is calling for protests on the U.S. side of the border "to join our Canadian brothers and sisters in the Fight for Freedom." U.S. 'freedom-lovers' are being called on to congregate at 12:00pm on January 29th, 2022 at/near US Border points at Houlton, Maine (Woodstock, NB), Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan (SSM, ON) and Sweet Grass, Montana (Coutts, AB and Emerson, MB) to support the Canadian Freedom Convoy. The Prairie Regional Director is meeting today at noon (local) with the RCMP to finalize the response plan in preparation for the planned protest.

Risk Mitigation:

- Regions are closely monitoring the current/planned protests with CBSA Intelligence to anticipate any border related impacts. Contingency plans are actively being reviewed across the country and Government partners (including the RCMP) have been actively engaged.

- Communications is prepared to respond to any media inquiries relating to impacts of the protests on border operations by stating that the Agency continues to monitor this issue and is ready to respond, with the help of police of local jurisdiction, to any protests impeding the flow of traffic to and from Canada, as accessing the POEs for reasons other than border crossing is an offense under the Customs Act. Lines also state that resources will be allocated as needed to alleviate operational impacts. Questions related to the protests in general will be deferred to PHAC (if related to the vaccine mandate), Public Safety (if related to general public safety) and/or Transport Canada as the federal regulator for the trucking industry.

Thanks,
Robyn